United Nations S/2002/1071

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 September 2002
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 25 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I should like to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 22 September 2002 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, concerning violations of the demilitarized zone which have been committed by United States and British warplanes, together with a table showing those violations for the period from 17 August to 13 September 2002.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Aldouri**
Permanent Representative

02-60513 (E) 260902 260902

Annex to the letter dated 25 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to our letter of 11 September 2002 (S/2002/1032, annex), I should like to inform you that during the period from 17 August to 13 September 2002, United States and British warplanes flying from bases in Kuwait, from Kuwait's airspace and territorial waters and via the demilitarized zone monitored by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) committed 859 hostile violations of our international boundaries. As shown in the table appended to this letter, the relevant Iraqi authorities have determined that the violations committed were as follows:

1. Armed aerial activity by the United States and the United Kingdom, involving violations of our international boundaries from bases in Kuwait, from Kuwait's airspace and territorial waters and via the demilitarized zone, comprised 859 armed sorties in the Dhi Qar, Muthanna, Basrah, Maysan, Qadisiyah, Najaf, Anbar, Karbala and Wasit and governorates.

2. Our technical systems identified the aircraft violating Iraq's airspace on a daily basis as American F-14s, F-15s, F-16s and F-18s and British Tornadoes.

3. An AWACS aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace provided support to all of the United States and British aircraft that carried out hostile, armed sorties, violating Iraq's airspace by way of the demilitarized zone.

4. From 17 August to 13 September 2002, a total of 14 remotely piloted aircraft violated Iraq's airspace from United States and British bases in Kuwait, from Kuwait's airspace and territorial waters and via the demilitarized zone.

All the violations in question were committed via the demilitarized zone in which UNIKOM is stationed. One of the primary responsibilities of UNIKOM is to monitor such hostile military operations, report them and endeavour to halt them immediately.

One of the essential tasks of UNIKOM is to record such violations accurately, determining the type and nationality of the aircraft. We therefore urge the United Nations Secretariat to provide UNIKOM with adequate systems to make it possible to monitor all violations and report them to the Security Council so that it may take the necessary measures to put an immediate stop to these infringements. Moreover, even if UNIKOM did not have equipment with which to ascertain the type and nationality of such aircraft, the fact that they come from Kuwait confirms that they are American and British. This is referred to in your semi-annual report to the Security Council covering the period from 28 March to 24 September 2001 (S/2001/913). Indeed, paragraph 6 of that report states that the inability of UNIKOM to identify the States responsible for conducting those sorties should not be taken to mean that it condones them. You also state in the report that the United States and the United Kingdom have acknowledged that they are continuing to enforce a no-flight zone in southern Iraq.

I therefore request you once more to instruct UNIKOM to perform its duties fully, to report these violations to the Security Council through you immediately upon their occurrence and to determine the number and type of the American and British warplanes that violate the demilitarized zone, contravening the Security Council resolutions whereby that zone was created and engaging in hostilities against Iraq, given that such acts constitute State terrorism and flagrant aggression against Iraq and against its people, its sovereignty and its territory, as well as against United Nations peace-keeping operations. I further request you to remind the Security Council of its responsibility to halt this aggression and hold the aggressors fully accountable for it under international law and in accordance with the Security Council resolutions relating to Iraq.

(*Signed*) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Enclosure

Hostile aerial activity violating Iraq's international boundaries from Kuwait and via the demilitarized zone, 17 August to 13 September 2002

Date	*From*	*Time*	*Type of aircraft*	*Armed sorties*	*Altitude (metres)*	*Speed (km/h)*	*Areas overflown*
17 August to 13 September	Kuwait	0705-2420	F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, drones	859 and 14 drones	8,000-11,500	180-780	Basrah, Busayyah, Salman, Artawi, Lasaf, Ashbajah, Jalibah, Nasiriyah, Shatrah, Qal'at Salih, Amarah, Samawah, Najaf, Hayy, Diwaniyah, Hashimiyah, Kut, Nu'maniyah, Karbala, Nukhayb, Rutbah